

# *Final Draft*

## *Appendix I*

### *Definitions and Acronyms*

*for*

Sagebrush Steppe Assemblage

Greater Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)

Sagebrush Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*)

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)

*and*

Shortgrass Prairie Assemblage

Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*)

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

Developed in partnership by

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Forest Service

Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association

July 23, 2013 (rev 11/2/16)

The definitions and acronyms in this Appendix apply to all conservation Strategy documents.

## Definitions

**“Adaptive Management”** is a systematic approach for improving resource management by learning from management outcomes, including exploring alternative ways to meet management objectives, monitoring to identify impacts of management actions, etc. In the case of the conservation Strategy, potential changes in Conservation Measures implemented on enrolled properties will be identified through a formal evaluation process in collaboration with the Conservation Advisory Committee and the FWS

**“Association”** is the Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association, a non-profit membership organization of property owners established in 1999 and became an incorporated non-profit in 2002.

**“Association Member”** is an individual or company that is a regular member of the Association in good standing and owns or has management control of lands within the five northeastern Wyoming counties of Campbell, Converse, Crook, Niobrara, and Weston and has made a one-time participation fee to obtain coverage under the Strategy based on total enrolled acreage.

**“Avoid”** is used to indicate minimizing to the maximum extent possible. It does not infer that a specific action or condition will never occur. Where a participant cannot avoid completely, the impact would be evaluated and points for the conservation measures would typically be lower than in a similar situation where complete avoidance was possible.

**“Conservation Agreement (CA)”** seeks to implement the conservation Strategy described in the CCAA by allowing eligible companies to carry out conservation measures as provided in the conservation Strategy subject to the terms of the CA. Association Members participate in this CA by voluntarily entering into a CI/CP. The CA is Appendix B to the CCAA.

**“Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA)”** seeks to implement the conservation Strategy described in the CCAA for certain land uses by Participating Members that are authorized by the BLM or USFS and occur on lands in the Coverage Area that are administered by BLM or USFS. Association Members participate in this CCA by voluntarily entering into a CI/CP. The CCA is Appendix A to the CCAA.

**“Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)”** is the source or parent document for the conservation Strategy that is implemented on a voluntary basis through the CCAA, the CCA, and the CA. Non-federal lands in the Coverage Area that meet certain criteria are eligible to enroll in the CCAA through a CI.

**“Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) Standard”** is the FWS policy requirement for CCAAs, which is that “actions to be taken through the proposed CCAA would remove the need to list the covered species when combined with actions carried out on other necessary properties. Other necessary properties are those on which conservation measures would have to be implemented in order to preclude or remove any need to list the covered species.” On May 4, 2016, the FWS proposed a draft

revised policy for CCAAs to clarify the CCAA Standard to require a net conservation benefit to the covered species specifically on the property to be enrolled and eliminate references to “other necessary properties.” Because this FWS draft policy revision was proposed as a clarification of the CCAA Standard rather than a change to the CCAA policy requirements, the most recent final FWS CCAA Standard would be apply when this CCAA is signed.

**“Certificate of Inclusion (CI)”** is the vehicle through which a Participating Member enrolls eligible non-federal lands in the CCAA.

**“Certificate of Participation (CP)”** is the vehicle through which a Participating Member agrees to participate in the CCA.

**“Changed Circumstances”** are activities or circumstances that may arise after the Strategy has been finalized that can reasonably be anticipated and planned for in the Strategy and that require the Association and the FWS to reassess and possibly revise the Conservation Measures being implemented in the affected location.

**“Conservation Advisory Committee”** is established through the Interagency MOU and consists of experts from the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, University of Wyoming - Extension, the Natural Resource Conservation Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, three members from non-governmental organizations (which might include but would not be limited to, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Audubon Wyoming, Environmental Defense Fund, etc.) and two or more consulting biologists with regional expertise (see Appendix E, Section 6.1).

**“Conservation Measures”** are the land management actions set forth in Appendices C and D for Sagebrush Steppe Assemblage and Shortgrass Prairie Assemblage, respectively.

**“Conservation Priority Areas”** are areas the Conservation Advisory Committee, working collaboratively, identified as priorities for conservation under the conservation Strategy. The Conservation Priority Areas for the sagebrush steppe assemblage include the six sage-grouse core areas and one connectivity area within the coverage area as designated in the State of Wyoming Governor’s Executive Order (Wyoming EO 2015-4) and other suitable habitats in proximity to these areas where meaningful long-term conservation benefit is likely to be achieved. For shortgrass prairie habitats, these areas consist of Conservation Advisory Committee-designated habitats occupied by the species or providing required habitat features within the Coverage Area.

**“Coverage Area”** is the area where Association Members may enroll their property. The Coverage Area encompasses approximately 13.2 million acres of private, state, and federal property, spanning northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana. In addition, the Coverage Area includes two qualifying peripheral properties within portions of three counties in southeastern Montana, and additional qualifying peripheral properties within a 10-mile wide area spanning portions of seven additional counties located immediately west and south of the five county block in Wyoming.

**“Covered Activities”** include general farm and ranch operations, recreation, oil and gas production activities and surface/in-situ mining operations, as well as Conservation Measures that will be implemented under the conservation Strategy.

**“Covered Species”** are four sagebrush obligates: greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*; hereafter *sage-grouse*), sagebrush sparrow (*Artemisiospiza nevadensis*), Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), sage thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*); and four shortgrass species: black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*), mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), and ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*).

**“Go-back Land”** is land that was once cultivated and that has been allowed to go back to whatever vegetation will volunteer on it. There is usually a progression of vegetative species, depending on extent of cultivation.

**“Grazing Management Plan”** is a strategy that outlines manipulation of the grazing animal to meet desired objectives and includes such details as habitat objectives, livestock numbers, in/out dates, range improvements, supplemental forage, monitoring specifics, drought/post-drought management, etc.

**“Interagency MOU”** is the 2014 Interagency Memorandum of Understanding for Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances and integrated Candidate Conservation Agreement and Conservation Agreement between the Association, FWS, BLM, USFS and Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The MOU is Appendix H to the CCAA.

**“Lek”** is a traditional courtship display area attended by male sage-grouse in or adjacent to sagebrush dominated habitat. A lek is designated based on observations of two or more male sage-grouse engaged in courtship displays. Sub-dominant males may display on temporary strutting areas but these areas usually fail to become established leks. Therefore, a site where less than five males are observed strutting should be confirmed active for two years before considering the site a lek.

**“Map”** unless otherwise specified, to map is to create a GIS or GPS perimeter of the specified area.

**“Non-federal Property Owner”** is a person with a fee simple, leasehold, or other property interest (including owners of water or other natural resources), or any other entity that may have a property interest, sufficient to carry out the proposed management activities, subject to applicable state law, on non-federal land. This would include states, local governments, tribes, businesses, organizations and private individuals, and includes owners of land as well as owners of other natural resources.

**“Occupied Sage-grouse Habitat”** is any area where sage-grouse have been observed in at least 1 of the last 10 consecutive years. This is initially based on existing sightings and survey results as modified by on-going data collection (e.g., sage-grouse collaring studies, future sightings, pellet counts, nest locations, etc.)

**“Occupied Sage-grouse Lek”** is any lek where sage-grouse have been observed in at least 1 of the last 10 consecutive years.

**“Participating Member”** is a member of the Association that has agreed to conduct Conservation Measures as provided in the conservation Strategy pursuant to a current CI or CI/CP.

**“Point(s)”** are the system of valuing Conservation Measure benefit to the Covered Species. Appendix E contains a complete discussion of the point system.

**“Potential Coal Development Area”** is an area designated by Participating Members where future coal development is expected to occur and includes the coal development potential area delineated in the 2007 Casper BLM Resource Management Plan, including the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Amendment, plus a five mile buffer along the western and southern side.

**“Potential Mineral Development Areas”** refers to the Potential Coal Development Area and the Potential Oil and Gas Development Area collectively.

**“Potential Oil and Gas Development Area”** is an approximately 350,000 acre area designated by the Association Members where future oil and gas development is expected to occur. This area is generally contiguous and outside of designated sage-grouse core areas.

**“Sagebrush”** as used for the covered sagebrush obligate species includes all species and sub-species of the genus *Artemisia* except the mat-forming sub-shrub species *frigida* (fringed) and *pedatifida* (birdfoot).

**“Sagebrush Steppe Assemblage”** includes the greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), sagebrush sparrow (*Artemisiospiza nevadensis*), Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), and sage thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*).

**“Shortgrass Prairie Assemblage”** includes the black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*), mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), and ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*).

**“Small Acreage Owner”** is a non-federal property owner with 40 enrolled acres or less. Small acreage owners have different point requirements for participation, as described in Appendix E.

**“Strategy”** is the combined conservation instrument, consisting of a CCAA and integrated CCA and CA.

**“Suitable Sage-grouse Habitat”** is nesting, breeding, brood-rearing, or winter use areas within the mapped occupied range of sage-grouse with 5 percent or greater sagebrush canopy as measured by the technique(s) developed by interagency methods.

**“Suitable Shortgrass Prairie Habitat”** is vegetative conditions that are known or suspected of providing habitat during important life periods as determined by existing or historical records and/or by habitat assessments.

**“Unforeseen Circumstances”** are those circumstances affecting a Covered Species that could not reasonably have been anticipated by the parties at the time of the Strategy's negotiation and development, and that result in a substantial and adverse change in the status of the Covered Species.

## **Acronyms**

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CA	Conservation Agreement (See Definitions)
CBNG	Coal bed natural gas (also coal bed methane)
CCA	Candidate Conservation Agreement (See Definitions)
CCAA	Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (See Definitions)
CI	Certificate of Inclusion (See Definitions)
CP	Certificate of Participation (See Definitions)
CPA(s)	Conservation Priority Area(s) (See Definitions)
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan (USFS)
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
RMP	Resource Management Plan (BLM)
TBGPEA	Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association
USFS	United States Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WGFD	Wyoming Game and Fish Department